

REMARKS

INTRODUCTION:

In accordance with the foregoing, 1, 3, 5, 6, 7, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18 and 20 have been amended, claims 2, 4, 8, 11, 13, 15, 17, 19 and 21 have been cancelled, and new claims 22-25 have been added. No new matter is submitted.

Claims 1, 3, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20 and 22-25 are pending and under consideration.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. §112:

Claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 6 has been amended to remove the antecedent informality. Therefore, it is respectfully requested that this rejection be withdrawn.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. §102:

Claims 1, 3, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Hayama et al., U.S. Patent 6,421,032. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

By way of review and as an example, independent claim 1 sets forth:

"A character processing apparatus which is connectable to a plurality of input terminal equipments and to a character information creating terminal equipment via a network, comprising:

a receiving section to receive a request for character information which relates to an external character from one of the input terminal equipments;

a code allocating section to allocate a code to the requested character information;

a control section to control creation of character information, based on the requested

character information, within the character information creating terminal equipment; and

a setting section setting created character information with respect to the allocated code."

The claims have been generally amended to explain that the character processing system includes a character processing apparatus, a character information creating terminal equipment, and at least one input terminal equipment, coupled via a network, with differing scope and breadth.

Hayama et al. merely sets forth an external character creating method that displays at least a portion of image data in a specifying area on a display screen, displays a dot-shaped cursor on the display screen, and creates an external character on the displayed image data using the cursor, where the cursor is fixed at a position in the specifying area, so that the image data is scrolled in the vertical direction and in the horizontal direction to create the external character. Thus, Hayama et al. only relates to an external character creating method which creates dot patterns for the external character within a small display screen of a stamp-making apparatus.

Furthermore, FIG. 11 of Hayama et al., relied upon in the Office Action, illustrates the entire stamp-making apparatus (column 4, lines 53-55). That is, FIG. 11 of Hayama et al. only illustrates a closed system which is closed within the stamp-making apparatus shown in FIGs. 1A and 1B of Hayama et al.

Conversely, embodiments of the present invention is directed to a character processing method and system, as well as the apparatuses and computer-readable storage media related thereto, for creating (and setting) an external character requested by an input terminal equipment via a network. As defined in the claims, the external character is not created within the input terminal equipment, but is created within the character information creating terminal equipment (or within the character processing apparatus if the character information creating terminal equipment is included within the character processing apparatus). As a result, it is unnecessary to extract the external character in advance, and the developing process can be reduced, since an editing operation does not require interruption even when the external character needs to be registered.

Thus, Hayama et al. fails to disclose or suggest creating an external character in a character processing system having elements coupled via a network, as defined in the independent claims.

Therefore, for at least the above, it is respectfully requested that this rejection of claims 1, 3, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20 be withdrawn and claims 1, 3, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20 be allowed. In addition, as new claims 22-25 depend from allowable base claims, it is respectfully submitted that claims 22-25 are also in proper condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION:

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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4/15/03

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CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8(a)

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington, D.C. 20231

on April 15, 2003

By: _____

By: *Heidi Anderson*
Date: April 15, 2003

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please **AMEND** claims 1, 3, 5, 6, 7, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18 and 20, as follows. The remaining pending claims have been repeated herein, as a convenience to the Examiner.

1. (ONCE AMENDED) A character processing apparatus which is connectable to a plurality of input terminal equipments and to a character information creating terminal equipment via a network, comprising:

a receiving section [receiving] to receive a request for character information which relates to an external character from one of the input terminal equipments;

a code allocating section [allocating] to allocate a code to the requested character information;

a control section [controlling] to control creation of [the requested] character information, based on the requested character information, within the character information creating terminal equipment; and

a setting section setting created character information with respect to the allocated code.

3. (ONCE AMENDED) The character processing apparatus as claimed in claim [2] 1, further comprising:

a distributing section distributing the created character information to the input terminal equipments.

5. (ONCE AMENDED) A character processing system, comprising:
at least one input terminal equipment; and
a character processing apparatus coupled to the at least one input terminal equipment via a network,

said input terminal equipment comprising a requesting section requesting character

information, which relates to an external character, with respect to the character processing apparatus, said character processing apparatus further comprising [:] an allocating section allocating a code to the character information requested by the requesting section;

a first notifying section notifying the code to the input terminal equipment;

a creating section creating [the requested] character information based on the requested character information; and

a second notifying section notifying the created character information to the input terminal equipment.

6. (ONCE AMENDED) The [document] character processing system as claimed in claim 5, wherein said first notifying section notifies the code to the input terminal equipment when the code is allocated by said allocating section.

7. (ONCE AMENDED) A character processing system as claimed in claim 5, wherein said first notifying section notifies the code to the input terminal equipment after said creating section creates the [requested] created character information.

9. (AS UNAMENDED) A character processing system as claimed in claim 5, wherein said second notifying section also notifies the code to the input terminal equipment.

10. (ONCE AMENDED) A character processing method adapted to a character processing system which includes at least one input terminal equipment, a character processing apparatus, and a character information creating terminal equipment, which are coupled via a network, comprising[the steps of]:

[(a)] receiving by the character processing apparatus a request for character information which relates to an external character from the input terminal equipment;

[(b)] allocating a code to the requested character information by the character processing apparatus;

[(c)] controlling, by the character processing apparatus, creation of [the requested] character information, based on the character information, in the creating terminal equipment; and

[(d)] setting created character information with respect to the allocated code by the character processing apparatus.

12. (ONCE AMENDED) A character processing method adapted to a character processing system which includes at least one input terminal equipment, a character processing apparatus, and a character information creating terminal equipment, which are coupled via a network, comprising[the steps of]:

[(a)]requesting character information which relates to an external character from [an] the input terminal equipment with respect to [a]the character processing apparatus;

[(b)]allocating a code to the requested character information [requested by said step (a)]by the character processing apparatus;

[(c)]notifying the code to the input terminal equipment by the character processing apparatus;

[(d)]creating [the requested]character information, based on the requested character information, by the character information creating terminal equipment; and

[(e)]notifying the created character information to the input terminal equipment by the character processing apparatus.

14. (ONCE AMENDED) A character processing method adapted to a character processing system which includes at least one input terminal equipment, a character processing apparatus, and a character information creating terminal equipment, which are coupled via a

network, comprising[the steps of]:

[(a)] requesting character information which relates to an external character from [an] the input terminal equipment with respect to a character processing apparatus;

[(b)] allocating a code to the requested character information [requested by said step (a)] by the character processing apparatus;

[(c)]creating [the requested] character information, based on the requested character information, by the character information creating terminal equipment; and

[(d)] notifying the created character information to the input terminal equipment by the character processing apparatus.

16. (ONCE AMENDED) A computer-readable storage medium which stores a program for causing a computer, forming a character processing apparatus which is coupled to at least one input terminal equipment and a character information creating terminal equipment via a network, to carry out a plurality [the] steps, comprising[of]:

[(a)] receiving a request for character information which relates to an external character from the input terminal equipment;

[(b)] allocating a code to the requested character information;

[(c)] controlling creation of [the requested] character information, based on the requested character information, in the character information creating terminal equipment; and

[(d)] setting created character information with respect to the allocated code.

18. (ONCE AMENDED) A computer-readable storage medium which stores a program for causing a computer, forming a character processing apparatus which is coupled to at least one input terminal equipment via a network, to carry out a plurality of [the] steps, comprising[of]:

[(a) requesting] receiving character information which relates to an external character

and is requested from [an] the input terminal equipment [with respect to a character processing apparatus];

[(b)] allocating a code to the requested character information [requested by said step (a)];

[(c)] notifying the code to the input terminal equipment;

[(d)] creating [the requested] character information based on the requested character information; and

[(e)] notifying the created character information to the input terminal equipment.

20. (ONCE AMENDED) A computer-readable storage medium which stores a program for causing a computer, forming a character processing apparatus which is coupled to at least one input terminal equipment via a network, to carry out [the] a plurality of steps, [of] comprising:

[(a) requesting] receiving character information which relates to an external character from [an] the input terminal equipment [with respect to a character processing apparatus];

[(b)] allocating a code to the received character information [requested by said step (a)];

[(c)] creating [the requested] character information based on the received character information; and

[(d)] notifying the created character information to the input terminal equipment.